

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, individuals or households.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 75,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 10 minutes.

Frequency of Response: Annually.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 727,023 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1058.

Form Number: IRS Form 8655.

Type of Review: Revision.

Title: Reporting Agent Authorization for Magnetic Tape/Electronic Filers.

Description: Form 8655 allows a taxpayer to designate a reporting agent to file certain employment tax returns electronically or on magnetic tape, and to submit Federal tax deposits. This form allows IRS to disclose tax account information and to provide duplicate copies of taxpayer correspondence to authorized agents. Reporting agents are persons or organizations preparing and filing magnetic tape or electronic equivalents of federal tax returns and/or submitting federal tax deposits.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 100,000.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 6 minutes.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 10,000 hours.

OMB Number: 1545-1345.

Regulation ID Number: CO-99-91 Final (T.D. 8490).

Type of Review: Extension.

Title: Limitations on Net Corporate Operating Loss.

Description: This regulation modifies the application of the segregation rules under section 382 in the case of certain issuances of stock by a loss corporation. This regulation provides that the segregation rules do not apply to small issuances of stock, as defined, and apply only in part to certain other issuances of stock for cash.

Respondents: Business or other for-profit, Farms.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 10.

Estimated Burden Hours Per Respondent: 1 hour.

Frequency of Response: On occasion.

Estimated Total Reporting Burden: 10 hours.

Clearance Officer: Garrick Shear (202) 622-3869, Internal Revenue Service, room 5571, 1111 Constitution Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20224.

OMB Reviewer: Milo Sunderhauf (202) 395-7340, Office of Management

and Budget, room 10226, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503.

Lois K. Holland,

Departmental Reports, Management Officer.

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UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program

ACTION: Notice—Request for Proposals.

SUMMARY: The Office of Citizen Exchanges (E/P) of the United States Information Agency's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for an assistance award program. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in IRS regulation 26 CFR 1.501(c)(3)-1 may apply to develop programs to administer the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX). Since this is a bilateral agreement, Germany is also holding a simultaneous open competition to select the German counterpart organizations that will administer the program in Germany.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX), known in Germany as the Parlamentarisches Patenschafts-Programm (PPP), is an official exchange program of the Congress of the United States, administered by the U.S. Information Agency, and the German Bundestag (Parliament), administered by PB4. The actual number of participants selected each year is dependent on the amount of funding made available by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. The program provides a full scholarship for an academic year experience of living and studying in the host country. Part of the exchange involves students aged 16-18, who live with host families, attend high school ("Gymnasium" in Germany) and participate in community life. Other components involve young professionals and vocational school graduates. Each government provides funding through grant awards for the costs of recruiting, selecting, orienting, and debriefing of its nationals; their international airfare; and most hosting costs. The final determination of exchange numbers for each academic year is made in the preceding December when representatives of both governments hold annual discussions. Participants are chosen according to procedures and criteria established by each government.

Overall grant making authority for this program is contained in the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, Public Law 87-256, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act. The purpose of the Act is "to enable the Government of the United States to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries * * *; to strengthen the ties which unite us with other nations by demonstrating the educational and cultural interests, developments, and achievements of the people of the United States and other nations * * * and thus to assist in the development of friendly, sympathetic and peaceful relations between the United States and the other countries of the world." The funding authority for the program cited above is provided through legislation.

Programs and projects must conform with Agency requirements and guidelines outlined in the Solicitation Package. USIA projects and programs are subject to the availability of funds.

ANNOUNCEMENT NAME AND NUMBER: All communications with USIA concerning this announcement should refer to the above title and reference number E/P-96-9. Please refer to title and number in all correspondence or telephone calls to USIA.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: All copies must be received at the U.S. Information Agency by 5 p.m. Washington, DC time on Friday September 1, 1995. Faxed documents will not be accepted, nor will documents postmarked September 1, 1995, be received at a later date. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure that proposals are received by the above deadline.

Selection decisions will be made by December 31, 1995, in coordination with the Government of Germany, which will simultaneously select the German counterpart organizations that will administer the program in Germany. Final budgets, based on guidance to be provided by the Agency, will be required from the selected organizations by October 30, 1996.

Duration: Organizations that are successful in this competition will be awarded grants in FY 1997 to administer the exchange for academic year 1997-98 and will also be eligible for grants in FY 1998, 1999, and 2000. No grant funds may be expended until the grant agreement is signed. The initial grant periods will be from January 1, 1997 to July 31, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Interested organizations/institutions should contact the Office of Citizen Exchanges, E/PE, Room 220, United

States Information Agency, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547, telephone (202) 619-5319, fax (202) 619-4350, internet {CMINER@USIA.GOV}, to request a Solicitation Package, which includes award criteria; all application forms; and guidelines for preparing proposals, including specific criteria for preparation of the proposal budget. Please direct inquiries and correspondence to USIA Program Officer, Christina Miner. Interested applicants should read the complete Federal Register announcement before addressing inquiries to Office of Citizen Exchanges or submitting their proposals. Once the RFP deadline has passed, the Office of Citizen Exchanges may not discuss this competition in any way with applicants until the Bureau proposal review process has been completed.

SUBMISSIONS: Applicants must follow all instructions given in the Solicitation Package. The original and 8 copies of the complete application should be sent to: U.S. Information Agency, Ref.: E/P-96-9, Office of Grants Management, E/XE, Room 326, 301 4th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20547.

Applicants must also submit to E/XE the "Executive Summary," "Proposal Narrative," and "Budget" sections of each proposal on a 3.5" diskett, formatted for DOS. This material must be provided in ASCII text (DOS) format with a maximum line length of 65 characters. USIA will transmit these files electronically to USIS posts overseas for their review, with the goal of reducing the time it takes to get posts' comments for the Agency's grants review process.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to the Bureau's authorizing legislation, programs must maintain a non-political character and should be balanced and representative of the diversity of American political, social, and cultural life. "Diversity" should be interpreted in the broadest sense and encompass differences including but not limited to race, gender, religion, geographic location, socio-economic status, and physical challenges. Applicants are strongly encouraged to adhere to the advancement of this principle.

Overview

There are four parts to the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX):

1. *Administration Component:* One grant will be awarded to an organization to administer the recruitment and selection process on behalf of, and in cooperation with, the other grantee

organizations. It will be responsible for preparing and distributing informational material, student selection criteria and applications to a wide audience including all public and private secondary schools, the media, and key networks such as the American Association of Teachers of German. Innovative methods of publicizing the program are welcome, within funding limitations. The organization will screen all written applications and identify a group of semi-finalists that reflects population distribution by state. In order to generate a roster of finalists the grantee will work with other organizations to assemble and coordinate state selection committees to interview semi-finalists. It will handle the notification of these finalists and work with the other organization in processing their files. The grantee will also set up and maintain a master list of all high school student participants and prepare a list of the Congressional representatives from whose districts the students are selected. The grantee will prepare a similar list of German participants and the Congressional districts in which they are hosted. Finally, it will work with the other grantee organizations in the preparation of general briefing materials, updated biannually, for use by all CBYX participants. The award may not exceed \$348,000.

In addition the grantee organization will be responsible for securing insurance for the German students. Coverage must include the following:

Illness and Accident Coverage

- * Physician—Any
- * Hospital—Any
- * Treatment and care—Unlimited
- * Specialist to sickbed—Unlimited
- * Medication—Unlimited
- * Prosthesis—Unlimited
- * Private Nurse—Unlimited
- * Chiropractors/Podiatrist—Unlimited if recommended by physician
- * Dental care due to accident—Unlimited
- * Emergency dental care—\$800 maximum
- * Psychiatric care—\$600 maximum

Except in cases of extreme emergency, approval is needed before surgery.

Travel Cost

- * Related to treatment—Unlimited
- * Post sickness room and board while not at usual place of residence—Unlimited
- * Repatriation of sick insured—Unlimited
- * Repatriation of remains—Unlimited

Indemnity in Case of Accident

- * Death—\$10,000

- * Dismemberment—\$500 to \$2,000 according to scale
- * Disability resulting from accident—\$100,000 maximum
- * Disfigurement—\$20,000 maximum
- * Burial expenses outside home country—\$7,500 maximum

Exclusions

1. Medical care required due to "cause majeure".
 2. Suicide, self-inflicted injuries, injuries due to fights.
 3. Treatments that are the result of accidents occurred while driving any motorized vehicle are excluded, except when applying to minors participating in an organized high school program, while learning to drive an automobile according to the laws of the state and the rules of the sponsoring entity. This will apply only to four-wheeled automobiles and insurer will act always and only as secondary insurer.
 4. Travel as crew on any aircraft or boat and travel on non-commercial flights.
 5. Any type of drug-related treatment.
 6. Preexisting conditions, even if not diagnosed, or incubating diseases.
 7. Routine and preventive medicine, such as sport physicals, vaccinations, tests, etc.
 8. Venereal diseases, elective termination of pregnancy, pregnancy, childbirth, AIDS.
 9. Prostheses of any type, including glasses and contact lenses, except in case of accident.
 10. Orthodontic and major dental care, fillings and root canals, except in case of accident.
 11. Any psychological or psychiatric treatment over the limit.
 12. Eating disorders.
 13. Plastic surgery and aesthetic treatments, including acne and wart removal.
 14. High risk sports and those normally not accepted as leisure sports, and sports practiced professionally.
 15. Chiropractors, podiatrists and similar practitioners, unless their services are prescribed by a physician (MD).
 16. Treatments not accepted as normal by the medical profession.
 17. Criminal acts and fraud by insured or his/her accomplices.
- Any policy, plan, or contract secured to fill the above requirements must, at a minimum, be:
- (1) Underwritten by an insurance corporation having an A.M. Best rating of "A—" or above, and Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-i" or above, a Standard & Poor's Claims-paying Ability rating of "A—" or above, a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of

B+ or above, or such other rating as the Agency may from time to time specify; or

(2) Backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the exchange visitor's home country.

2. High School Component:

Approximately 300 U.S. and 300 German students will participate annually. The American organization is responsible for the following: Final processing of the students; pre-departure orientation; travel arrangements; debriefing and follow-up for the U.S. students; arrival orientation for the German students; placement of German students in schools; selection and orientation of host families; domestic U.S. travel arrangements; supervision and counseling; arrangements for a two-day visit to Washington, D.C.; and re-entry training. The Washington program, which is designed to introduce the participants to the federal government, may be subcontracted out by the grantee. Both the pre-departure orientation and the debriefing should take place in Washington, D.C. and include CBYX students only.

The grantee handles all administrative and logistical matters, including in-country travel. Any language training for Americans will be the responsibility of the German partner organization and covered by German funds. German students are expected to be fluent in English. Therefore, language training will be unnecessary for them. Organizations may include other program elements in their proposals, but should bear in mind that funding is limited.

Organizations may bid on one or more lots of 30 U.S./30 German students. A maximum of five U.S. organizations will be selected for grants in this category.

Any organization competing for the high school component must be designated by USIA as a Teenager Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor.

3. Young Professional Component:

One organization will be awarded a grant to administer this component. The U.S. organization will be responsible for the following: The recruitment and selection of approximately 60 young American men and women ages 18-24, who will study and participate in an internship during the exchange year in a field related to their career interest; their pre-departure orientation (approximately 3 days); and international travel arrangements. The organization will be expected to work closely with its German partner to monitor the progress of the U.S. participants and to resolve problems should they arise. The grantee will also

be responsible for arranging and monitoring all program activities for approximately 80 young German professionals ages 18 to 24 during their stay in the U.S. It will conduct a two- or three-day arrival orientation; arrange their placement in colleges and practicums (internships); recruit, screen and orient host families; make arrangements for the group's visit to Washington for a three-day cultural and educational program; provide supervision and counseling of the participants as needed; and handle all administrative and logistical matters including in-country travel. Any language training for Americans will be the responsibility of the German partner organization. Organizations may include other program elements in their proposals, bearing in mind that funding is limited.

Each German participant will be placed in a two or four-year college for full-time study, a minimum of 12 credit hours, for one semester. The grantee may need to arrange for English classes for those participants whose English is inadequate. To save costs, the organization is encouraged to seek tuition waivers and cost-sharing with cooperating colleges. Each participant will have a full-time practicum or internship in his/her professional field for the second half of the program year. Each practicum should be based on a prospectus of the specific skills and functions that will be mastered, and it should include a structured learning component that enables the participant to gain a perspective on the overall operation of the firm.

A stipend for some meals, incidentals and reasonable local transportation expenses may be included in the budget, but the stipend should be substantially reduced or eliminated during the second half of the program when the firms or agencies hosting the practicums provide an allowance for living expenses. The current stipend is approximately \$225 per month. Where possible, hosting arrangements should be found that do not require subsidization.

4. Vocational Component: One grant will be awarded to an organization to administer the program component designed for 20 American vocational school graduates. The organization is responsible for recruiting and selecting men and women ages 18-20 who will complete vocational school studies prior to departure for Germany. The grantee is encouraged to work with vocational educational offices at the state level in addition to administrators of secondary schools with vocational education in their curriculum in the selection

process. The grantee will conduct a pre-departure orientation and, at the conclusion of the program, a debriefing. The grantee will work with its partner in Germany, which is responsible for the following (funded by the German Government): arrival orientation, up to two months of language training, family and school placement, arrangements for a practicum in the participants' field, counseling and support, excursions, and administration including insurance.

Insurance: Insurance for German participants in the U.S. will be provided by the administrative organization. Insurance for U.S. students will be provided by the German government.

Citizenship: Americans traveling under this program must be U.S. citizens.

Application Procedures: To be eligible for consideration in this competition an organization must:

1. Be legally incorporated and have a legally incorporated affiliate in Germany.

2. Have a not-for-profit status, as determined by the Internal Revenue Service; the German affiliate must also be not-for-profit ("gemeinnützige").

3. Be financially solvent, have demonstrated track record of responsible fiscal management and be able to meet the accounting and reporting requirements for Agency grants.

4. Have four years' experience in conducting long-term exchange programs (of at least nine months' duration) between the United States and Germany.

5. Have well-established national volunteer and host family networks to carry out various aspects of the program; regional representatives must be situated in such a way to handle expeditiously any problems that arise regarding host family accommodations, schooling and language problems, or difficulties concerning internships.

Funding

The organization must submit a comprehensive line item budget. Costs for U.S. and German students are to be listed separately. Grants awarded to eligible organizations with less than four years of experience in conducting international exchange programs will be limited to \$60,000. Organizations should be familiar with grant regulations described in OMB circulars A110, A122, and A133.

Cost sharing is encouraged. Cost sharing may be in the form of allowable direct or indirect costs. The grant recipient must maintain written records to support all allowable costs which are claimed as being its contribution to cost

participation, as well as costs to be paid by the Federal government. Such records are subject to audit. The basis for determining the value of cash and in-kind contributions must be in accordance with OMB Circular A100, Attachment E. Cost Sharing and Matching should be described in the proposal. In the event the recipient does not provide the minimum amount of cost sharing as stipulated in the recipient's budget, the Agency's contribution will be reduced in proportion to the recipient's contribution.

The recipient's proposal shall include the cost of an audit that: (1) complies with the requirements of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of Institutions of Higher Education and Other Nonprofit Institutions; (2) complies with the requirements of American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Statement of Position (SOP) No. 92-9; and (3) complies with AICPA Codification of Statements on Auditing Standards AU Section 551, "Reporting on Information Accompanying the Basic Financial Statements in Auditor-Submitted Documents," where applicable. When USIA is the largest direct source of Federal financial assistance—i.e. the cognizant Federal Agency—and indirect costs are charged to Federal grants, a supplemental schedule of indirect cost computation is required. The audit costs shall be identified separately for: (1) audit of the basic financial statements, and (2) supplemental reports and schedules required by A-133.

USIA's Office of Inspector General has provided supplemental guidance for conducting A-133 audits and recovery of related audit costs in a separate "Dear Colleague" letter dated January 24, 1995.

Review Process

USIA will acknowledge receipt of all proposals and will review them for technical eligibility. Proposals will be deemed ineligible if they do not fully adhere to the guidelines stated herein and in the Proposal Submission Instructions. Eligible proposals will be forwarded to panels of USIA officers for advisory review. All eligible proposals will be reviewed by the Agency budget and contract office, as well as the USIA Office of Western European and Canadian Affairs and the USIA post overseas, where appropriate. Proposals may also be reviewed by the Office of the General Counsel or by other Agency

elements. Funding decisions are at the discretion of the USIA Associate Director for Educational and Cultural Affairs. Final technical authority for grant awards resides with the USIA contracting officer.

Review Criteria

Technically eligible applications will be competitively reviewed according to their conformance with the objectives and considerations already stated in this RFP and the criteria stated below. These criteria are not rank ordered and all carry equal weight in the proposal evaluation.

1. *Quality of the program idea:* Proposals should exhibit originality, substance, precision, and relevance to Agency mission.

2. *Program planning:* Detailed agenda and relevant work plan should demonstrate substantive undertakings and logistical capacity. Agenda and plan should adhere to the program overview and guidelines described above.

3. *Ability to achieve program objectives:* Objectives should be reasonable, feasible, and flexible. Proposals should clearly demonstrate how the institution will meet the program's objectives and plan.

4. *Multiplier effect/impact:* Proposed programs should strengthen long-term mutual understanding, including maximum sharing of information and establishment of long-term institutional and individual linkages.

5. *Support of Diversity:* Proposals should demonstrate the recipient's commitment to promoting the awareness and understanding of diversity.

6. *Institutional Capacity:* Proposed personnel and institutional resources should be adequate and appropriate to achieve the program or project's goals.

7. *Institution's Record/Ability:* Proposals should demonstrate an institutional record of successful exchange programs, including responsible fiscal management and full compliance with all reporting requirements for past Agency grants as determined by USIA's Office of Contracts. The Agency will consider the past performance of prior recipients and the demonstrated potential of new applicants.

8. *Follow-on Activities:* Proposals should provide a plan for continued follow-on activity (without USIA support) which insures that USIA supported programs are not isolated events.

9. *Project Evaluation:* Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the program's success, both as the activities unfold and at the end of the program. USIA recommends that the proposal include a draft survey questionnaire or other technique plus description of a methodology to use to link outcomes to original project objectives. Award-receiving organizations/ institutions will be expected to submit intermediate reports after each project component is concluded or quarterly, whichever is less frequent.

10. *Cost-effectiveness:* The overhead and administrative components of the proposal, including salaries and honoraria, should be kept as low as possible. All other items should be necessary and appropriate.

11. *Cost-sharing:* Proposals should maximize cost-sharing through other private sector support as well as institutional direct funding contributions.

12. *Value to U.S.-Partner Country Relations:* Proposed projects should receive positive assessments by USIA's geographic area desk and overseas officers of program need, potential impact, and significance in the partner country(ies)

Notice

The terms and conditions published in this RFP are binding and may not be modified by any USIA representative. Explanatory information provided by the Agency that contradicts published language will not be binding. Issuance of the RFP does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government. The Agency reserves the right to reduce, revise, or increase proposal budgets in accordance with the needs of the program. Final awards cannot be made until funds have been appropriated by Congress, allocated and committed through internal USIA procedures.

Notification

All applicants will be notified of the results of the review process on or about December 31, 1995. Awards made will be subject to periodic reporting and evaluation requirements.

Dated: July 14, 1995.

Dell Pendergrast,

Deputy Associate Director, Educational and Cultural Affairs.

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